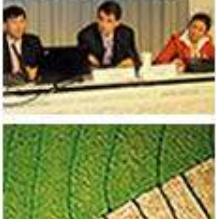


The Chemicals in Products Project

- an overview of activities and recommendations

Kevin Munn
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SAICM Open-ended Working Group
Belgrade, 16 November 2011



Content



- Mandate of Chemicals in Products project
- Activities since ICCM2
- Findings
- Recommendations for further actions

Chemicals in Products project



- ICCM2 (2009) identified information on chemicals in products (CiP) as an emerging global policy issue
 - CiP responds to SAICM OPS objective on Knowledge and Information (Para 15(b)) - to ensure that “information on chemicals throughout their life cycle, including, where appropriate, chemicals in products, is available, accessible, user friendly and appropriate to the needs of all stakeholders”
- ICCM2 invited UNEP to lead the project to:
 - Investigate existing systems of CiP information exchange
 - Identify stakeholder needs for CiP information and gaps
 - Develop recommendations for actions to address the issueUNEP to report to OEWG and to ICCM3 for possible decision on cooperative actions

CiP project – Major activities to date



- Initial project scope defined (priority product sectors: electronics, children's articles, clothing, building products, cosmetics/personal care and food containers/packaging)
- Global report of drivers and major global trends in chemicals in products information exchange, as well as system descriptions and global needs analysis
- In-depth priority sector case studies of existing information exchange activities and experience, stakeholder needs and gaps
- Three meetings and eight substantive reports
- Extensive consultation (multi-stakeholder project Steering Group) to monitor activities and results, provide advice, build awareness, gather input / feedback

Findings - Drivers for chemicals in products information exchange



- Need to meet legislative requirements (a major driver for most current chemicals in products information systems)
- Concerns among consumers and public interest groups regarding safety of products;
- Industry concern for product liability and brand and corporate image;
- Corporate policies regarding safety, health and environmental performance
- These drivers are present in all countries. However, in developed countries they result in CiP information exchange at a much higher level.

Findings - Obstacles to information exchange

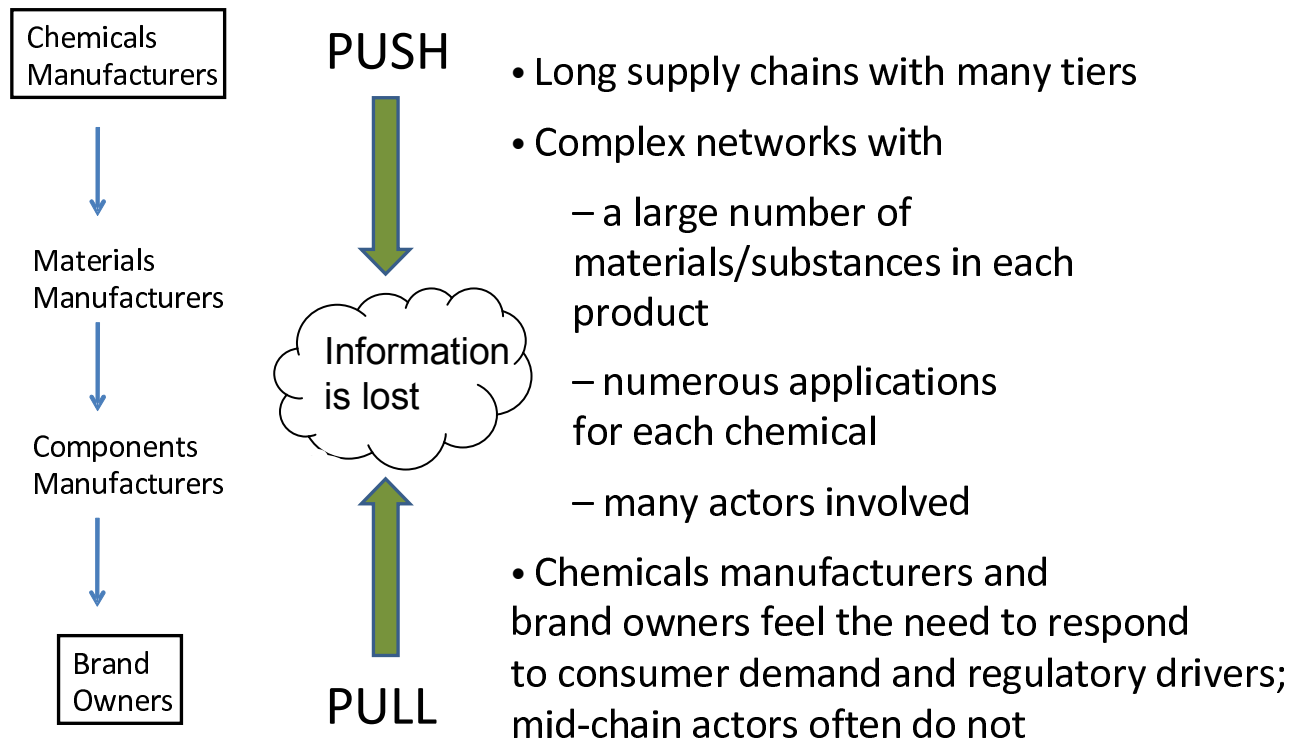


- Complexity of the issue
- Lack of standardized systems
- Lack of defined roles and responsibilities
- Costs and other resource implications for gathering and processing the information
- Information is not carried through the production chain / life-cycle
 - lack of requests or of perceived needs to transmit the information
 - confidential nature of the information
 - has not been done in the past → a new activity which needs time and effort to establish

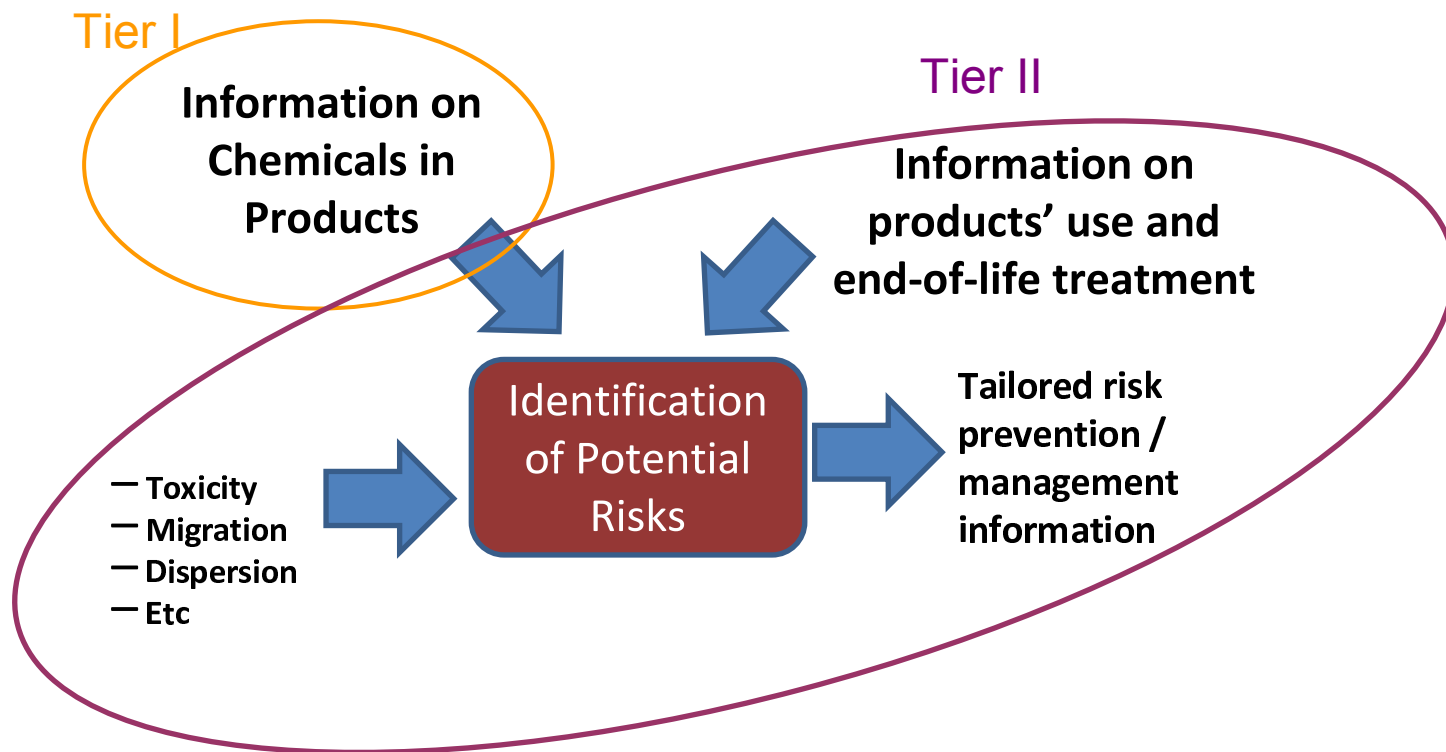
Findings - Gaps in information exchange



Production chain “pull” and “push” of information access and provision



Tier I and Tier II information



CiP project Workshop



International Workshop – March, 2011

- ~85 participants - all regions and major stakeholder groups represented
- Recommended the development of a framework to facilitate the exchange of information on chemicals in products
- Identified elements for the next steps in the CiP project
- Suggested pilot testing in one or more sectors

Recommendations to ICCM3



Development of a framework to facilitate the exchange of information on chemicals in products (WS report - Annex 2). The framework could:

- (a) Identify the roles and responsibilities of the major stakeholder groups
- (b) Establish principles on what information could be transferred to different stakeholders and how that transfer could take place
- (c) Build on existing experiences of best practices

Development of the framework could draw on the CiP project meetings / discussions and other existing knowledge

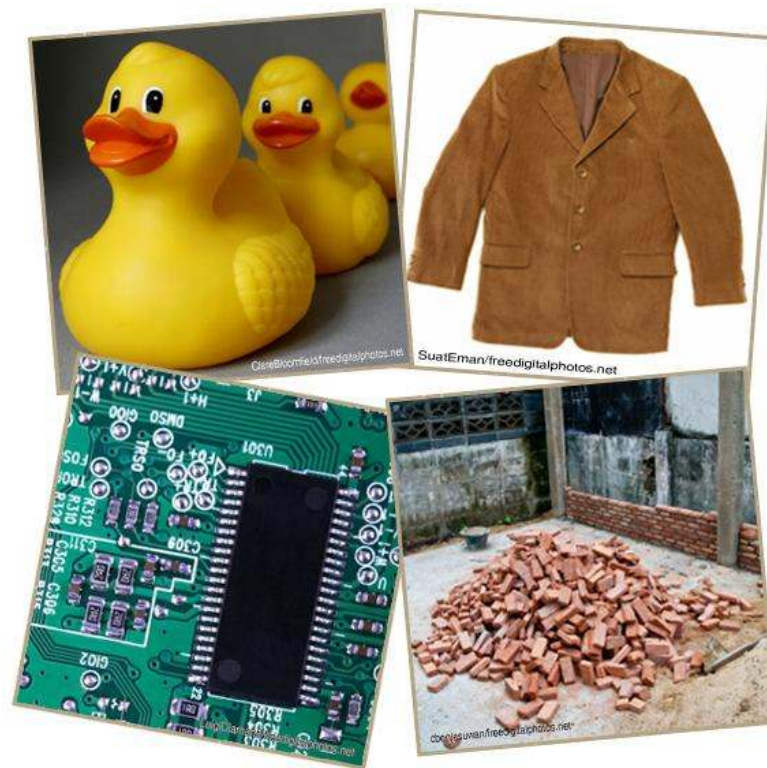
Proposal for the framework to be submitted to ICCM4 (2015)

Recommendations to ICCM3



Elements identified by CiP Workshop to be addressed during the development of the framework:

- Principles on what chemicals information could be transferred to different stakeholders → i.e. what information, for which chemicals and how transmitted
- The need to address differentiated needs of different stakeholders - sectors and regions
- Build on related activities (cost of inaction, capacity building, technical and financial assistance)
- Actions to gain buy-in by industry and other stakeholders
- Treatment of confidential business information
- Development of guidance documents – both general and sector specific – and including:
 - promotion of successful systems
 - use of standardized languages
 - policy guidelines
 - proposals for regulatory tools



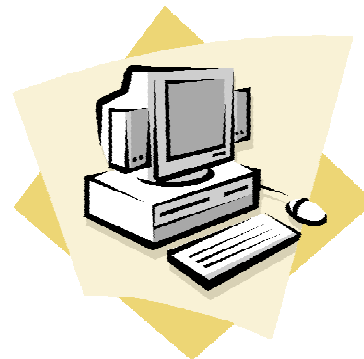
THANK YOU

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Examples of information systems



- Product labels
- Databases, either publicly available or of limited access (i.e. when information is confidential or proprietary)
- Restricted substance lists (company driven)
- Safety data sheets (SDS)

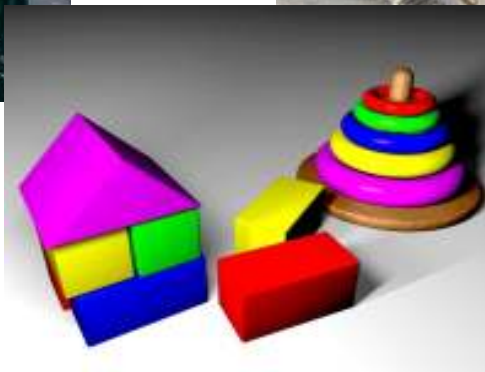


CiP project



Why a chemicals-in-products project?

- Growing awareness of potential adverse effects of chemicals found in common products → increasing pressure for information on chemicals in products



CiP project



Why a chemicals-in-products project?

- Efforts already underway: REACH SVHC, GHS/SDS, sector / company specific; developing countries → needs are largely unmet



- Harmonization and synergism would facilitate efforts

Common issues



- Manufacturers / end-producers / brand owners can affect change by insisting that chemical information is provided to them
- Numerous initiatives exist where manufacturers or distributors exceed the legal requirements – these proactive measures are the leading edge of CiP information exchange and control.
- The chemicals industry has made efforts at the start of the production chain to “push” GHS / Safety Data Sheet information down the chain with the chemicals.

Potential benefits of a CiP system



Harmonized approaches would:

- Create greater efficiency and reduce costs
- Define roles and responsibilities so stakeholders will know what information to provide and what to expect from others
- Build on the GHS system / Safety Data Sheets
- Improve preparedness to respond to regulatory restrictions regarding individual chemicals (no detective work needed as information should be available)
- Provide a firm basis for informed choices
- Contribute to more sustainable use of resources through improved information about quality of materials aimed at recycling

General conclusions



- Regulation and voluntary initiatives were complementary and both play an important role in control of chemicals contained in products and in exchanging associated information
- General awareness on the potential dangers posed by chemicals in products is growing (not the least endocrine disruptors)
- There is a potential positive business impact that improved knowledge, oversight and actions on chemicals in products could bring.
- A harmonized industry-wide effort by sector is likely to be more efficient and effective than individual company actions.
- Exchange of information on chemicals in products in the supply chains would constitute the basis for other efforts to meet the SAICM objective 15(b).
- Tailoring that information to the needs of actors/stakeholders along the product lifecycle is a subsequent task.

CiP project – Next steps



Recommendations to ICCM3

- Draft to be considered at the SAICM Open-ended Working Group (November 15-18 2011 – Belgrade, Serbia)
 - Implement further actions as required to finalize the recommendations to ICCM3
- Outreach and awareness raising among stakeholders
 - Identify partners for eventual sector pilot test(s)
- Decision point: ICCM3 in mid-2012 – will consider results and recommendations and decide on future actions